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LEGITIMACY OF NAMES IN BARTRAM'S "TRAVELS"

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MOST botanists will share Fernald's sorrow at feeling obliged to change such a familiar name as *Heracleum lanatum* Michx. (RHODORA 46: 50. 1944). It is a pleasant duty, therefore, to point out that Bartram's *Travels*¹ does not meet current requirements for the publication of specific epithets. Art. 68 of the *International Rules* says that "specific epithets are illegitimate . . . and must be rejected . . . when they were published in works in which the Linnean system of binary nomenclature for species was not consistently employed."

Bartram used binomials—*nomina trivialia*—pretty consistently in listing species which he had seen; occasionally, however, lapsing into polynomials, as on p. 378, where we find *Pinus taeda, foliis geminatis et trinis, strobilo ovato* . . . and *Pinus palustris, foliis trinis longissimis, strobilo elongato* . . . Occasionally he follows a binomial with a polynomial quoted from an older author, e. g., *Smilax pseudo-China; Smilax aspera, fructu nigro, radice nodosa* . . . ; Sloan, tom. 1. p. 31 (p. 241). There is nothing objectionable in these descriptive phrases appended to well known names. Several of his new species also he named with binomials; with or without an attached polynomial; e. g., *Hedera carnosa (fol. quinatis inciso-serratis, perennantibus)* (p. 243), *Hydrangea quercifolia* (p. 382), *Hypericum aureum* (p. 383), *Myrica inodora* (p. 405), *Bignonia bracteata*

¹ The citations are from the original (Philadelphia) edition of 1791. In the London reprint of 1794 the items cited occur on two pages short of those in the original—376 instead of 378, etc.

(p. 468), and *Heracleum maximum* (p. 344). For others, however, he used polynomials with no indication of a "trivial name." It is true that *Stewartia montana, fol. ovatis acuminatis serratis, flor. niveo, staminum corona fulgida, pericarp. pomum exsuccum, apice acuminato dehiscens* (p. 334) might be taken as publication of the binomial *Stewartia montana*, being much in the manner of the 8th edition of Miller's *Gardeners Dictionary*; and, in fact, it was so interpreted by the compilers of the *Index Kewensis*. Similarly *Magnolia pyramidata, foliis ovatis, oblongis, acuminatis, basi auriculatis, strobilo oblongo ovato* (p. 408) was taken up by Pursh and has been generally and rather inconsistently attributed to him. Similar action might be taken for the "new species of the Oenothera (*Oenothera grandiflora, caule erecto, ramoso . . .*), perhaps the most pompous and brilliant herbaceous plant yet known to exist" (p. 406), of *Aesculus sylvatica, floribus ex albo et carneo . . .* (p. 476), *Corypha repens, frondibus expansis, flabelliformibus . . .* (p. 61), and several others; though these are missing from the *Index Kewensis* and seem to have been generally ignored. Such names, however, are typical pre-Linnean polynomials; if a trivial name had been intended, it would probably have been designated by italic or in some other way. And when we find *Ipomoea, caule erecto, ramoso, tripedali . . .* proposed on p. 376 for a new species of *Ipomoea*, we can admit no further doubt; and again "the fantastic Clitoria . . . (Clit. caule volubili fol. ternatis pennatisque . . .)" (p. 243). One must bear in mind that in Bartram's day there was no such sharp distinction as now exists between "name" and "description." To name a plant adequately was also to describe its essential features. It is obvious that Bartram did not consistently employ the binary system. The same conclusion results from looking through the lists of birds on pp. 287-296.

There is, I suppose, no gain without some loss. Three of Bartram's binomials were taken up by Small in his *Flora of the Southeastern United States* and are doubtless in common use: *Hydrangea quercifolia*, *Hypericum aureum*, and *Magnolia pyramidata*. A fourth, *Myrica inodora*, was the basis of *Morella inodora* and later of *Cerothamnus inodorus*. (Small doubtless got these from the *Index Kewensis*; *Heracleum maximum* escaped.)

Hydrangea quercifolia may be attributed to Nuttall (Gen. 1: 284. 1818), who did not mention Bartram. *Hypericum aureum* may be cited ex Torr. & Gray, Fl. N. Am. 1: 161 (1838). *Magnolia pyramidata* is correctly cited ex Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 382 (1814). *Myrica inodora* seems to have been first legitimately published by Chapman (Fl. S. U. S. 427. 1860).

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[It is a real satisfaction to have Dr. Rickett's demonstration that, when not validated by later authors, the names in Bartram's *Travels* are invalid. Those wrongly accepted by me in RHODORA, xlv. 44-50 should not be taken up.—M. L. F.]

AMERICAN THALICTRA AND THEIR OLD WORLD ALLIES

BERNARD BOIVIN

(Continued from page 377)

Subgenus **Lecoyerium**, subg. nov. *Inflorescentia* paniculata, rarissime subcorymbosa. *Flores* dioici vel polygami vel monoici vel in paucis perfecti. *Sepala* 4-(6), superantur *stigmatibus* tempore anthesis. Species typica *Thalictrum dioicum* L. sit.

Sectio **Cincinneria** sect. nov. Sect. *Camptogastrum*, b. *Macropcarpa* Prantl, Nat. Pfl. 3, 2: 66, 1888.—*Plantae* elatae; in speciebus nonnullis nitentes in proximis, glabrae vel puberulentes circa *nodos* aetate florendi. *Folia* percomposita, inflorescentiae numerosa, *foliolis* subrotundis, apice plus minusve trilobatis vel grosse dentatis. *Pedunculi* longissimi et pendentis aetate fructuum maturandorum, brevissimi tamen aetate florendi. *Flores* perfecti, *carpellis* 1-4, *staminibus* purpureis antheris mucronatis. *Sepala* viridia (an semper?). *Stigmata* saepius truncata aetate fructuum maturandorum. *Fructus* plus minusve recurvatus vel fere rectus, plus minusve compressus vel, si sectus, rotundus, *nervis* rugosis, *T. impexo* nostro excepto, stipitatus, nec costatus. Species typica *Thalictrum cincinnatum* nostrum sit.

Height attributed herewith to the different species is based mainly on measurements of a few nearly complete individuals which have been folded until they fitted the Procrustean bed of an herbarium sheet. Collector's observations were available only in the case of *T. Mannii* Hutchinson and on two herbarium sheets, one of *T. innitens* nostrum and one of *T. Steinbachii* nostrum.

The underground system of all the species of this section is unknown. There seems to be no fixed flowering season for the African species, at least those from central Africa.